UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/1079
21 September 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 SEPTEMBER 1994 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

According to Government sources and as confirmed by the international humanitarian organizations and media, the last 72 hours in the regions under the control of the Bosnian Serbs have seen the fiercest wave of ethnic cleansing, forcing thousands of non-Serb civilians to flee.

More than 3,000 Muslims, Croats and Gypsies have been in a most brutal way expelled from their homes and forced to flee towards the territories under the control of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, those expelled are forced to walk through minefields, which has lead to several fatalities. In this brutal process, the innocent civilians have been stripped of all belongings, including real estate, money, jewellery and other valuables. Those victims who have tried to rescue any of their belongings have been severely beaten and tortured in a fashion unprecedented since the Fascist regimes during the Second World War. Furthermore, these acts have been followed by the separation and detention in concentration camps of able men from the group. The detainees are either being forced to conduct hard physical work in trenches to reinforce the Serbian front positions or they are being exchanged for prisoners of war.

Taking into account this latest round of ethnic cleansing, more than 10,000 Muslims, including hundreds of Croats, Gypsies and other non-Serbs, have been forced from their homes since mid-July of this year.

As the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) officially notes in its press release of 19 September 1994:

> "Expulsions are continuing on a large scale despite repeated assurances given by the highest Bosnian Serb authorities. It fears that ethnic cleansing is entering its last stages in the Bijeljina area. Following the appeal made by its President on 7 September, ICRC calls once again on all parties to the conflict and on the international community to put an end to the unacceptable practice of exclusion of minorities, which is causing so much human tragedy."

Unfortunately, this final episode of the campaign of ethnic cleansing that has persisted since the beginning of the aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has, in the last several months, led the Bosniac and Croat populations from the Banja Luka and Bijeljina regions to the brink of extinction in plain view of the international community.

The continuity, systematic approach and persistence of ethnic cleansing decidedly confirm the scheme of Karadzić's Serbs, regularly supported by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to cleanse completely all of the non-Serb population in order to prepare the inclusion of these ethnically cleansed territories in a so-called Greater Serbia.

During this time, the international community has not taken even one efficient step to stop the plight of thousands of innocent women, children and the elderly. This passive approach stands as a flagrant contravention of the Geneva Conventions and relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

As the ethnic cleansing process turns into its final stage, unfortunately the Security Council has not yet decided to consider as a matter of priority the draft resolution before it that proposes practical measures, in particular deployment of troops of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Banja Luka and Bijeljina with a view to deterring the further expulsion of these innocent civilians.

The Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has once again been forced to request that the Security Council urgently undertake all the necessary measures to halt immediately and unconditionally the further expulsion of the population from their homes.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIĆ
Ambassador and
Deputy Permanent Representative